

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for streaming content to an access network in an interactive information distribution system. The method initially encapsulates the content in accordance to an Internet Protocol (IP). In one embodiment, the content is configured as a plurality of a MPEG-2 packets contained in a payload of a Realtime Transport Protocol (RTP) packet that is contained in an IP packet. The content is then transcoded into a format supported by the access network, and streamed over a distribution network to a remote server or to a subscriber terminal that is coupled to the access network. The apparatus is embodied as at least one stream caching server for streaming said content as an Internet Protocol (IP) packet to at least one access network via a stream distribution network in response to a request for content, where the content is encapsulated within the IP packet. A packet processor is coupled to the at least one stream server for processing the encapsulated content within the IP packets into at least one packet in a format native to the at least one access network.

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